

ANNUAL REPORT, 1946-1947

A county library, to justify its name, must provide library service to all people in the county, urban and rural, and to all races. This is the aim to which the Davidson County Public Library has striven and has kept in view during its nineteen years existence, and the motive behind each move of expansion. Beginning in 1923 as a Woman's Club Library, and taken over in 1928 as a county library, it quickly spread its resources over the county. Libraries were established at Lexington and Thomasville and a bookmobile soon put into operation. Library growth has continued through the years, and at present five libraries, each separately housed and staffed, a bookmobile serving 23 schools, 19 book stations, 2 orphanages and 1 factory, comprise the County Library system.

During the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1947, another move of expansion was made, when at Denton, where in early days was set up the first of the bookmobile stations, a branch library was opened on July 8, 1946. The Denton Lions Club was most cooperative in this venture, furnishing book shelves, desk and chairs. Through the generosity of Mr. A.R. Morris, library quarters were obtained on the second floor of his store building. A librarian, Mrs. Walter Martin Jr. was secured, and a regular library schedule and routine worked out. Through June 30, 1946, this branch circulated 7,256 books. There all signs of this record being maintained and improved upon, if more books and supplies are provided. This year we hope to see this book stock increased considerably.

Circulation in the county library system as a whole was 297,899 books. This is a drop under the previous year, when 338,327 books were circulated. The circulation decline is a condition which seems to be prevalent in many other sections of the country at this time. Although the quantity of books read is less this year, we believe that the quality of books read is a little better in the Davidson County Library system. More books of non-fiction are being circulated. Perhaps the explanation for this is that with more people holding jobs than ever before, there is less time remaining for reading; consequently, this time is used for worthwhile reading - for self help and personal advancement in jobs, careers and education. It is interesting to note that of last years larger circulation figure, 31,486 books circulated were adult non-fiction, while of this year's smaller total figure, 33,262 adult non-fiction books were borrowed. Of course, many books of the lighter type are also read for who of us does not need this form of recreation? - but our deduction from figures shown is that more time is spent on thought-provoking books.

During the year, 1,965 new borrowers registered for library reading, and 387 people renewed their cards, making a total of 2,352 people added to the registration files. In all, there are 13,097 people in Davidson County who are registered borrowers. In practice this registered number falls far below the actual number of people who use library facilities. For instance, the bookmobile makes regular visits to 17 white and 6 negro schools, and each grammar grade teacher borrows books at each visit for the use of her pupils. The number of books borrowed varies from 30 to 60, and is generally around 45. Because of technical difficulties involved, a registration count of the